



The Committee for Sustainable Agriculture  
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18 July 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

The public should have a clear choice of whether or not to purchase food that has been irradiated during its production, processing, or handling. Using the term "cold pasteurization" for labeling is a misleading deception, since the term pasteurization by itself has an entirely different meaning of rapidly heating and cooling a product. The internationally known radura symbol and a written statement indicating that the food is treated with radiation must be clearly visible to consumers. If the food is not packaged, this information should be obviously displayed on the produce rack, dry food bin, or other adjacent compartment containing the food. Irradiation disclosure, both the label and the radura sign, should not expire at any time in the future.

We feel strongly about transparent, unclouded labeling, because we have the following concerns about irradiated food:

- A new class of unique Radiolytic products that have never been tested for possible carcinogenic effects are formed when radiation is used on food
- Vitamins are destroyed and the taste and smell of the food is altered when irradiation is used
- More workers will be exposed to radioactive waste if the public unknowingly supports this new food process
- Too much radioactive waste is already polluting the environment, and misleading the public to purchase food treated with radiation will further exacerbate the problem

I urge you to give the public a non-deceptive choice about irradiated food, and require clear labeling.

Sincerely,

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